

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN FIONA STAPLES

Saga™

CHAPTER
TWENTY
THREE



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THREE

Saga

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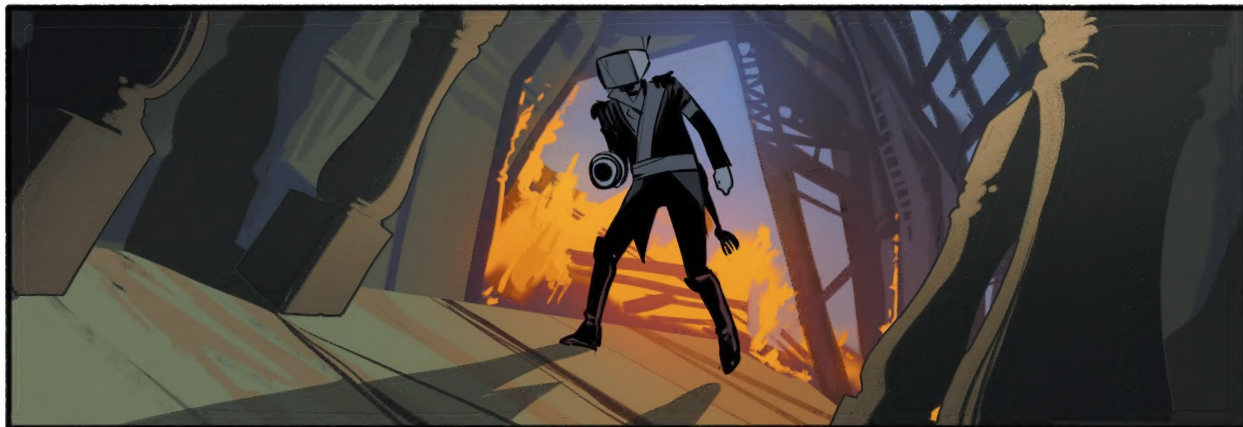
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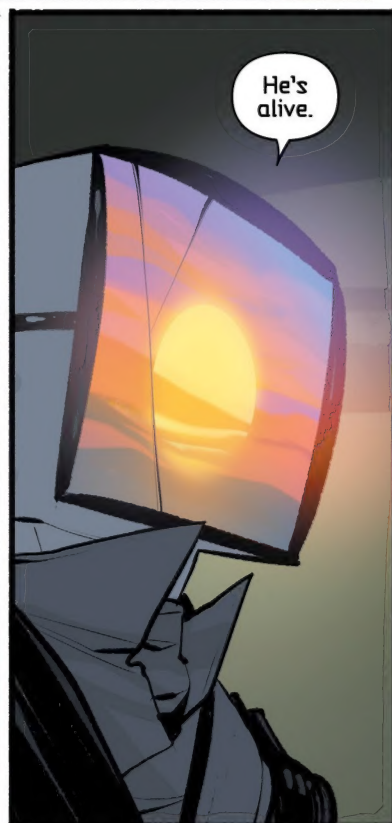




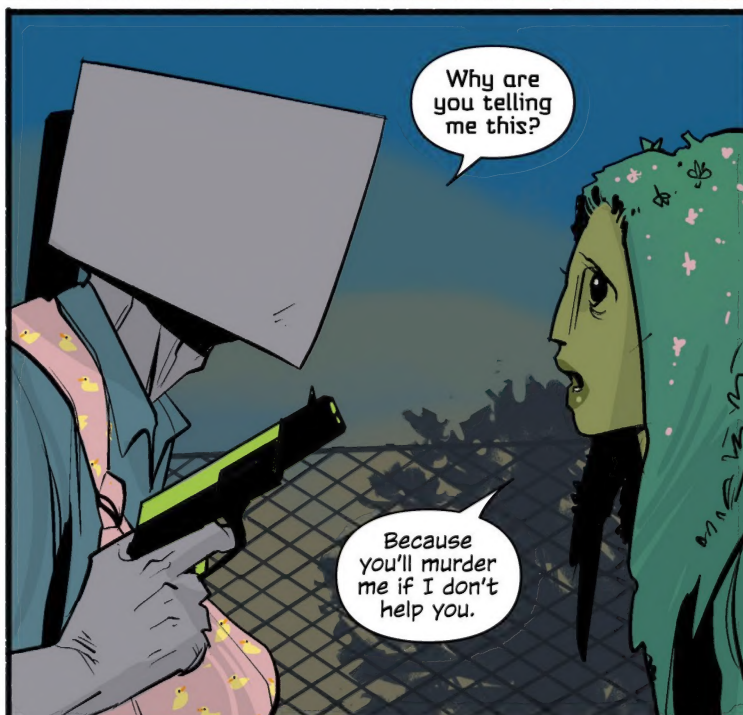
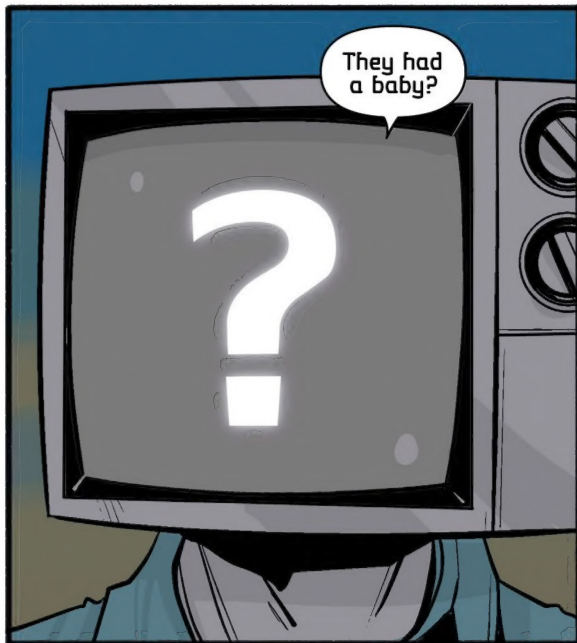


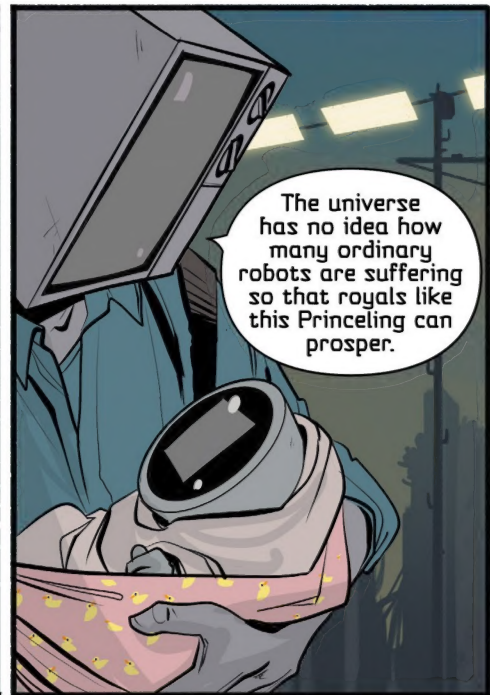
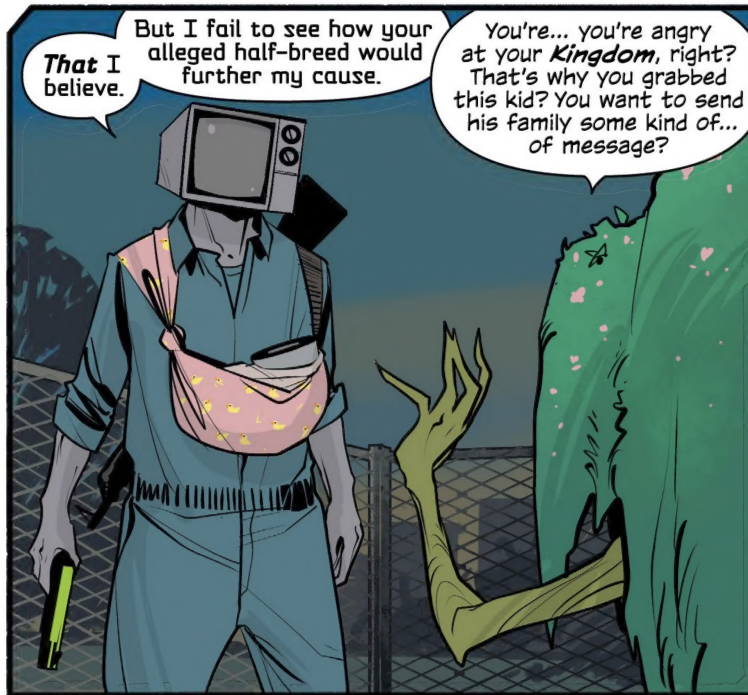


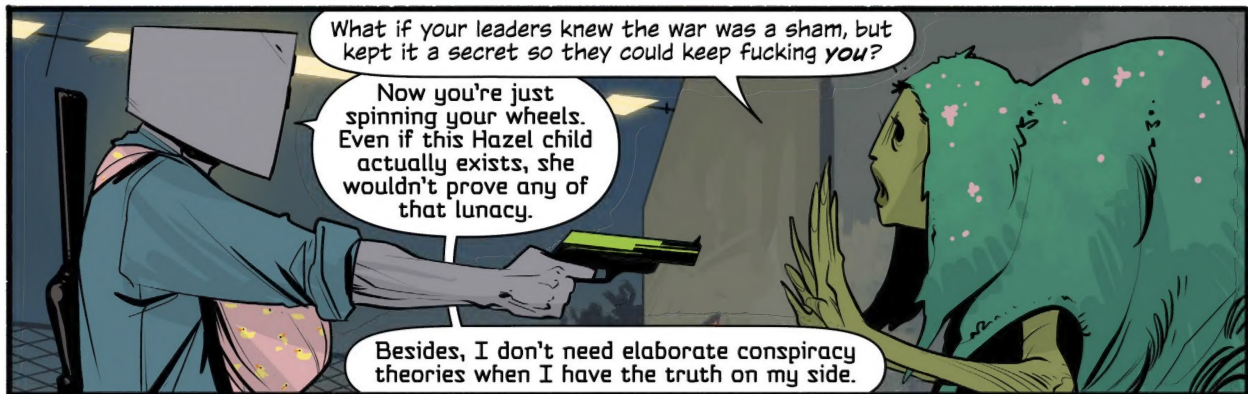
My boy.

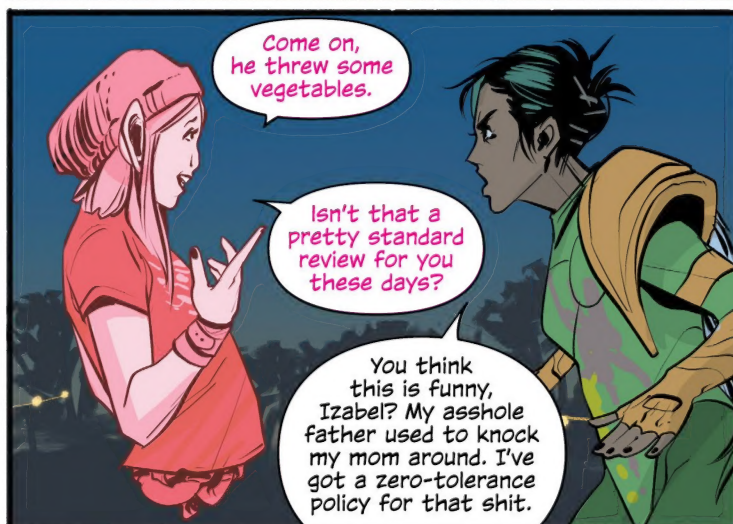


He's alive.

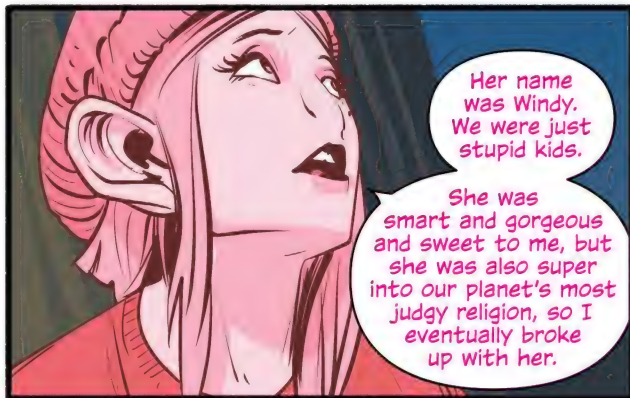












Her name was Windy. We were just stupid kids.

She was smart and gorgeous and sweet to me, but she was also super into our planet's most judgy religion, so I eventually broke up with her.



Two days later, I stepped on whatever anti-personnel crap one of your sides buried in our backyard.

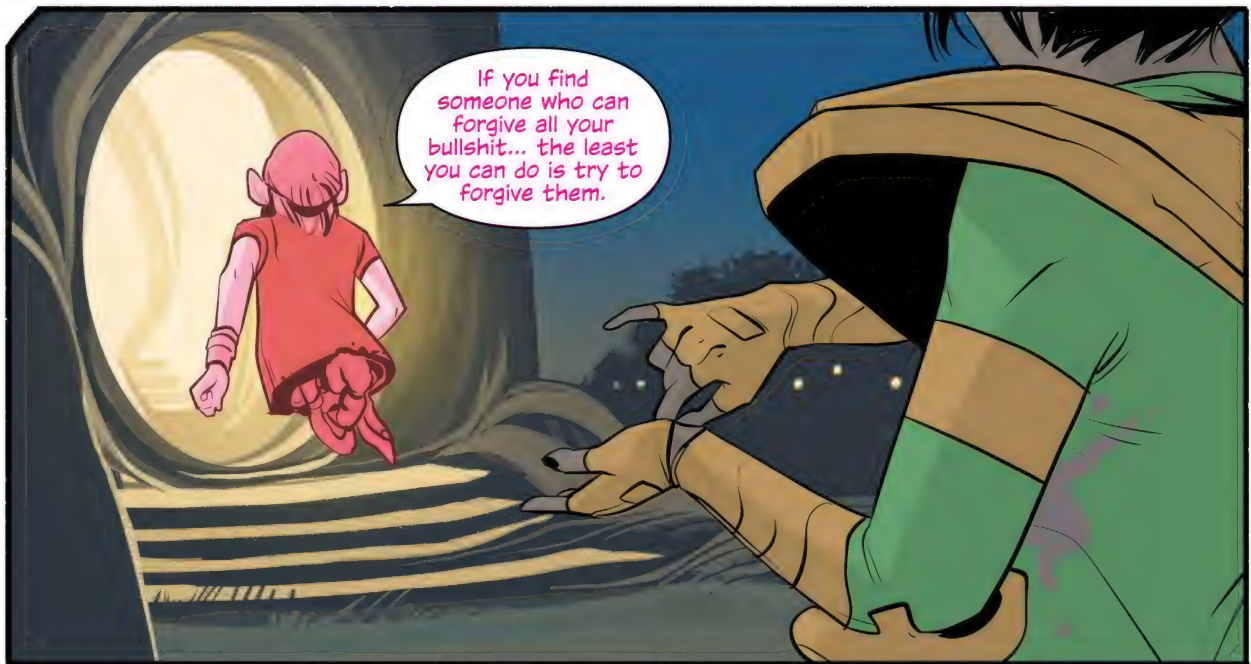
The whole time I was bleeding out, all I could think was, "Damn, I will never feel her breath on my neck again."



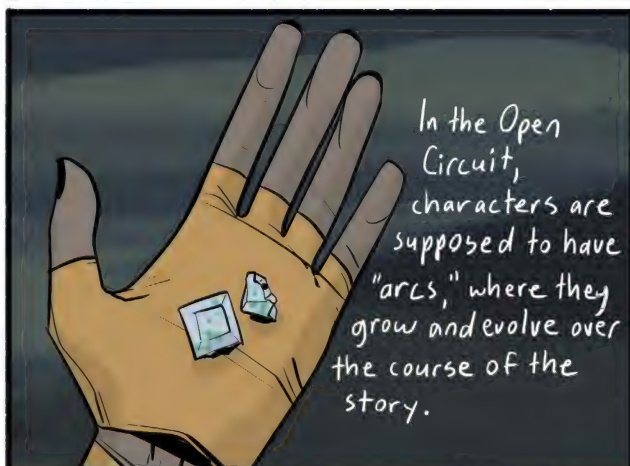
How pathetic is that? I need to get blown in half before I realize what a good thing I had?

I get what you're trying to say, but this is a completely different situation.

Yeah, life is complicated. But it's also very fucking short.



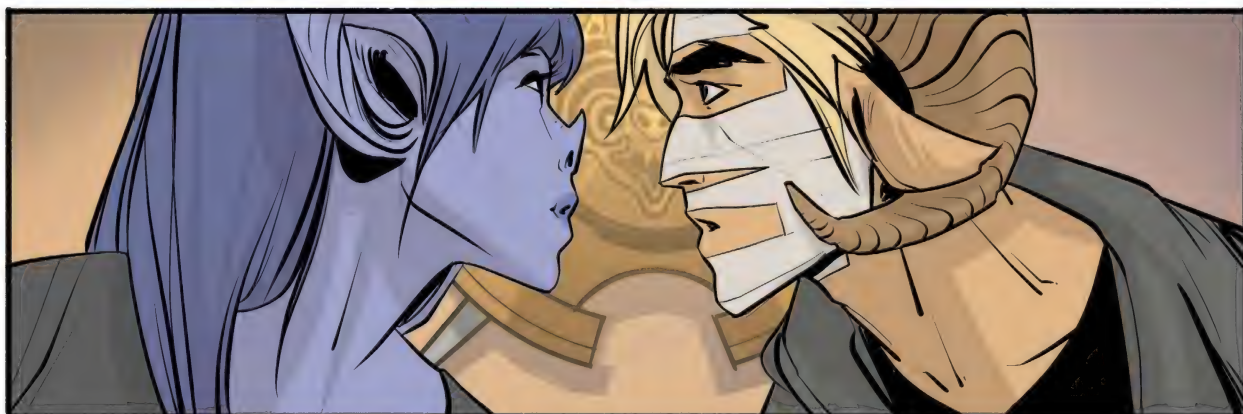
If you find someone who can forgive all your bullshit... the least you can do is try to forgive them.



In the Open Circuit, characters are supposed to have "arcs," where they grow and evolve over the course of the story.

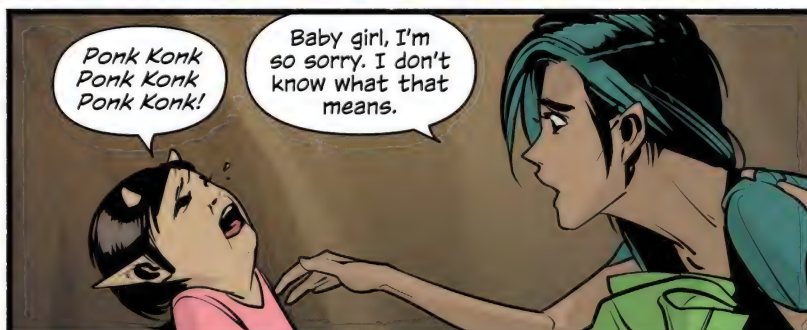


But Mom always thought that was nonsense.

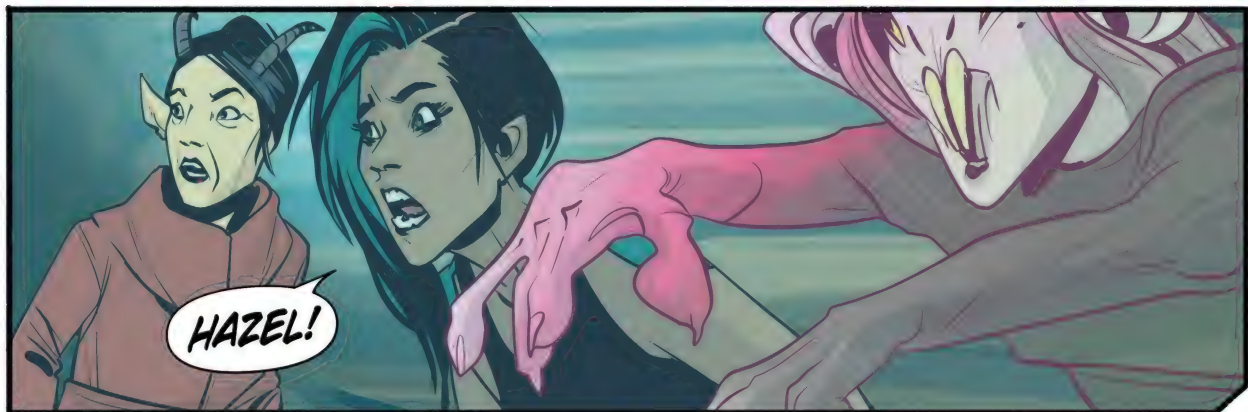


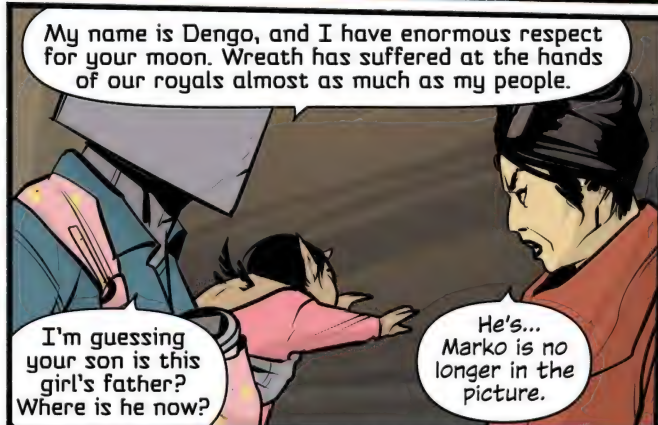


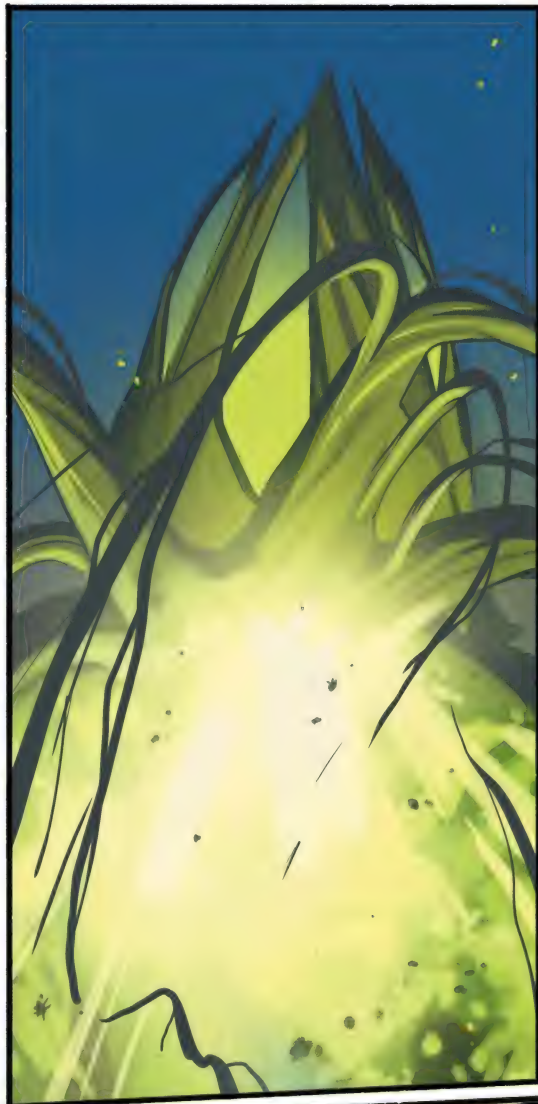


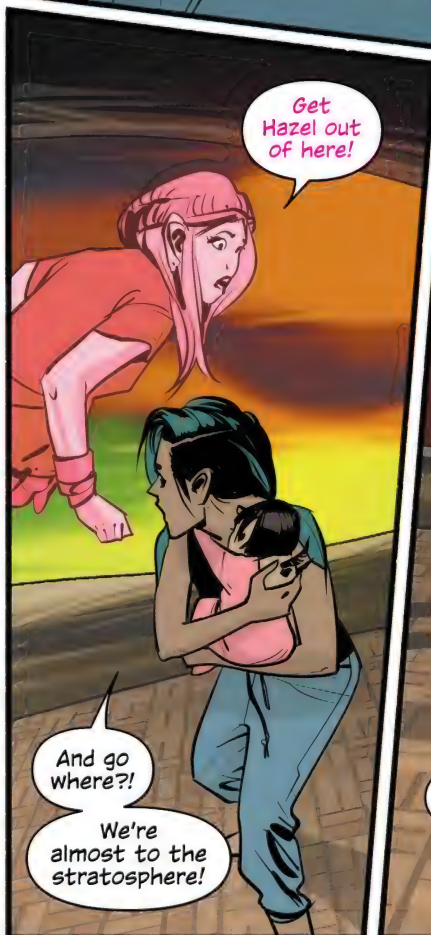


















I
should have
known *you*
were behind
all this.

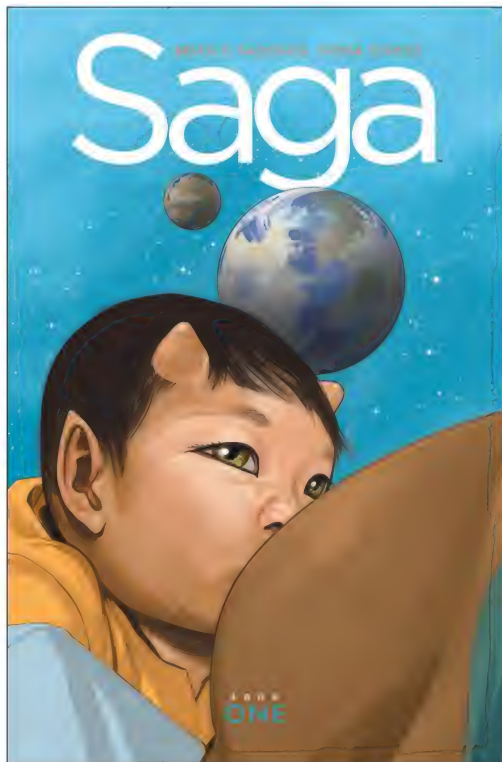
TO BE CONTINUED

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It's about time those two gentlemen finally met, right?

And speaking of long overdue introductions, it was incredible to finally meet Matt Fraction, Chip Zdarsky, Kelly Sue DeConnick, Declan Shalvey, Tula Lotay, and way too many of my other industry heroes to name-check here, at this year's Eisner Awards, where our book was lucky enough to pick up a few more trophies, most notably Fiona Staples being recognized as Best Painter/Multimedia Artist.

But my favorite part of that nutty week in San Diego was finally getting to show off Fiona's breathtaking new cover for SAGA: BOOK ONE, perfectly capturing Hazel's first few months in the universe...



This hardcover beast collects not six, not twelve, but our first EIGHTEEN issues in one massive, 500-plus-page edition featuring gobs of never-before-seen art and extras, including a weirdly detailed creator roundtable with the entire team discussing how we make an issue of *Saga* for Image Comics, from daydreaming all the way to shipping.

SAGA: BOOK ONE comes out at the end of November (conveniently in time for holiday gift-giving!), and we're only making a limited amount of our first printing, so if you don't want to miss out, please consider telling your local retailer to save you one.

For now, I'm getting ready for the New York Comic Con this October 9–12, and then Staples and I are both jetting to

Italy for the Lucca Comics & Games Festival from October 30–November 2, courtesy our spectacular friends at BAO Publishing. Looking forward to discussing the next arc of *Saga* with Fiona over good wine and Tuscan feasts. It's a rough life.

Anyway, as promised last issue, it's time for the 2014 SAGA READER SURVEY, our semiannual questionnaire that we use to get to know you fine folks a little bit better. If you're so inclined, please mail your completed forms to the physical address above, and while you don't have to write your answers directly onto this page, those of you who are brave enough to rip this *To Be Continued* column right out of your issue will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a one-of-a-kind signed *Saga* script (because while we like comic collectors, we LOVE comic readers).

2014 SAGA READER SURVEY

- 1) Who was President (or your home nation's political equivalent) when you were born?
- 2) And if it's not prying, what is your gender identity?
- 3) Have you ever personally ignited a road flare, and if so, what were the circumstances?
- 4) What was the first comic book that got you hooked on this medium?
- 5) Approximately how many countries have you visited in your life?

6) Sexting: hot or absurd?

17) What is the most embarrassing thing about your current browser history?

7) Where do you fall in the birth order? Oldest, youngest, middle? Or no siblings at all, you unfairly stigmatized only child?

18) If you were trapped on a desert island, what one video game would you want with you?

8) What was the last great novel (without illustrations) that you read?

19) When was the last time you needed to be brave?

9) How much would you say that you support Israel's actions in Gaza on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 10 (completely)?

20) How many tattoos do you have?

10) What are your ideal movie theater snacks?

21) Have you ever seen someone die with your own eyes?

11) Do you think your parents are proud of you?

22) What is the last music you actually paid for?

12) Have you ever gone hunting?

23) How many alcoholic beverages do you normally consume in a week? Truthfully?

13) What is your kryptonite?

24) Do you think college is important?

14) If you were on Celebrity Jeopardy, which charity would you be playing for?

25) What do you hope your legacy will be?

15) What is the worst thing you've ever been called?

On behalf of the entire *Saga* family, thanks again for your time, candor, and endless desire to do something other than actual work.

16) Favorite Saturday morning cartoon when you were a kid?

Next month, The Will's sister returns for a weird coda to our fourth arc, and we finally reveal the winners of the **Second Ever Ill-Advised Saga Costume Contest**, all of which are beyond words. I forbid you to miss it.

More grateful than great,
Brian



MICHAEL MORECI

VIC MALHOTRA

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MISSING, A COLONY'S SEEDY
UNDERBELLY OF TERRIBLE
SECRETS IS REVEALED.

SEPTEMBER



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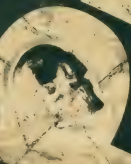
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—JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

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#GETGONE
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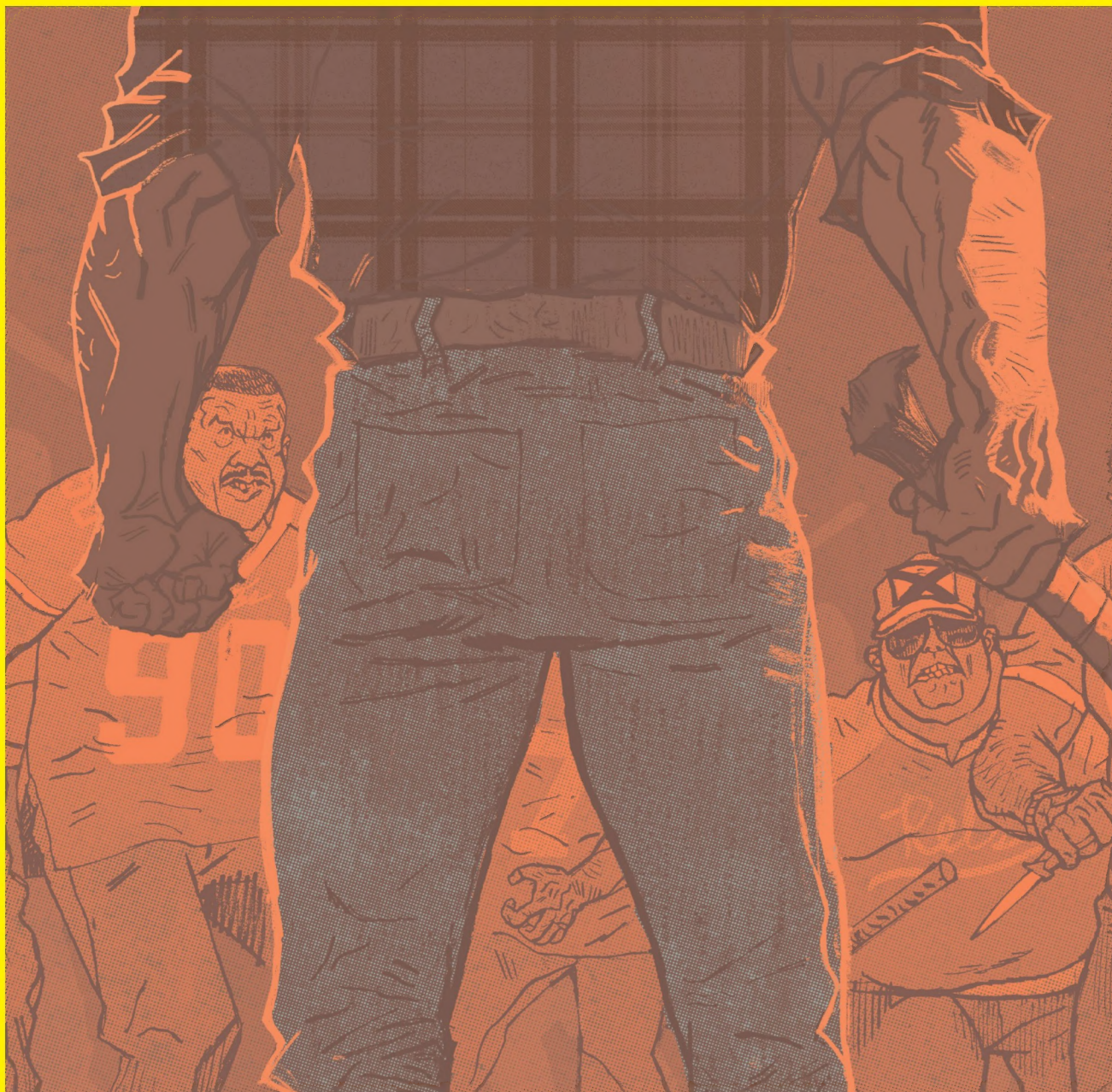


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BOOK ONE: FOCUS ON THE STRANGE

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